

For the Answer they have given to the Reasons I formerly printed for suppressing Stage-Coaches, I do not think them worthy a Reply, but leave all men that read the Reasons, and their Answers, to judge how little they have to say against the truth of what is offered against them; but shall make discovery of one or two falacies, by which they endeavour to deceive the people.

THE long Stage-men tell all people they hinder not the consumption of Horse-meat; for they carry but 36 Passengers in a Week, and do keep 40 Horses, each of which doth eat double what a Saddle-horse eats.

For answer; It is true they keep 40 Horses, and carry but 36 men in a Week; but they carry 36 several Passengers every Week, and keep the same 40 Horses all the year; so that in one year with 40 Horses they carry 1872. Passengers, which must go and come those Journeys. Let all the world judge whether if there were not these Coaches, would not at least 1000 of these Travellers keep Horses for themselves, and Horses for their Men some of them; so that there would be 1800. at least used to do the work that now 40 do, the like disproportions there is in all the long Stages.

Come to your short Stages 20 or 30 Miles a day, each 4 Horses in a Coach, carries 6 Passengers a day, that is, 36 in a Week, which makes 1872. in a Year; Consider then how many Coaches there are, 4 at Windsor, who with 16 Horses carry 7442. Passengers yearly, 4 at Redding, who with 32 Horses carry as many; 10 at St. Albons: and so there are to all Towns within 20 or 30 Miles of London. Consider every one of these Coaches carrying 1872. Passengers a Year with 4 Horses, how many of these 1872. must have Horses of their own, or hire Horses that would be kept to be let, you would find there would be 50 Horses at least kept for one that is now kept, which will occasion the consumption of Horse-meat.

It is observable, Before these Coaches set up, London spent all the Hay, Oats, Beans, Pease within 20 or 30 Miles off London that could be spared out of the Countrey, and had vast quantities from Henley by Water, and from below Graves-end, many Ships Lading of Beans from Hull, a world of Lincoln-shire Oats from Boston and Lynn, and then Corne and Hay for Horses bore a good Price at London; which is the Standard for all Countrey-markets, and then great store of Cattle came from York-shire Lancashire, Lincoln-shire, and bore greater Price then now, and that it is not so at this time, is the great prejudice of the Countrey, and why it is not so now, is plain.

It is in great measure occasioned by these Stage-Coaches, that are so numerous, and common, and go to all Towns, so that no man now will keep a Horse; Why? because his Rents are fallen he cannot; Why is Rents fallen? because there is no consumption, why no consumption of Horse-meat? because now 40 Horses in the longest Stages, 32 Horses in middle Stages, and 4 Horses in twenty Miles Stages, do the work of at least 1500. Horses that would otherwise be kept.

In London and Middlesex, before these Coaches set up, abundance of Merchants and other rich Trades-men, as well as all Gentlemen, considering their occasions, some to ride to Fairs and Markets, others to take their pleasure, or go to their Countrey-Houses, keep Horses for themselves, and for their men; but when the Act for restraining the Hackney-Coaches in London to 400. came out, there were above 1200. in London, who finding they could not work, then removed and placed themselves 2 or 3 in a Town, in almost every little Town or Village within 10 or 12 Miles, and all along the River of Thames, and at each Town near the said River; so that now Citizens and Gentlemen in Middlesex, that kept Horses, and men to look to those Horses, and Horses for them to ride with them, having a Passage for a Shilling or two from or into any Town or place about London keep no Horses, nor the men they use to do, and Gentlemen that come to Town in Coaches, coming without Men or Horses, hinder the great consumption of provision for Man and Beast, that used to be in London, London not being now able to spend what grows within twenty Miles of it, nor the Beasts that come from the Countries aforesaid, which is to the great prejudice of the Gentlemen and the Grasers, and by this means Pasture-lands about London are fallen a third Penny.

These Coaches ruine the Water-men, carry all Passengers that used to be Skulker or Oar-fares, and hinder the breeding Sea-men for the use of the Kingdom.

They hinder the breed of Horses, of which there will be a necessity for all Gentlemen to apply themselves unto when Stage-Coaches are put down, otherwise the Kingdom cannot be served.

They ruin the 400. Hackney-Coaches in London that are Licensed, pay 5 l. a Year, are bound to keep good Horses and Coaches; for these short Stage-men bring and carry all Passengers to all Towns within 20 Miles of London, and come into London, break and annoy the Streets, yet pay nothing towards repairing; but if they were down, at least 100. or 150. of the 400. would be hired out of London, by which the Streets would be less broken or annoyed.

They not only hinder the consumption of Leather, by making Boots, Saddles, Portmantues, Hat-cases, Holsters, Belts, Girths, useles, but hinder making many Coaches; for if they were down, there would be made two for every one that is now made.

They prejudice the Post-office certainly, when Coachmen within 20 Miles of London offer to give their Masters 15 or 20 l. per annum a piece for the benefit of their Letters.

They must hinder the Excise, when it is plain, not one moiety of the Beer and Ale is consumed on the Roads; or in the Inns in London, that there was when Gentlemen did travel with Servants, the Inn-keepers pay not two thirds so much for the Excise as they used to do.

In short, Stage-Coaches are become by their numerousness a common Nuisance, and tend to the destruction of the whole Kingdom, so that from all Parts and great Cities and Towns in England complaints come against them, and most of them petition for suppressing them. And in as much it is as true, the Plague and the War destroyed many people, which hinder a great consumption of what was formerly, the more need now there is to use all means to suppress those projects that tend to the hindering of the consumption of what may, and certainly will be consumed when they are destroyed. And such sort be Reasons aforesaid are Stage-Coaches; Ergo, not to be countenanced.